

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 5

MARCH 1966

OUR CONFERENCE AND OUR NEEDS

Changing the name from "Southeast Convention" to "Southeast Conference" is a small matter that will have no effect whatsoever upon the life of the local church. Each church will continue to carry on its own program and run its business in the way it has always done. The difference occurs on the conference level. We receive into membership in the conference the four former Evangelical and Reformed Churches, which are already members of the United Church of Christ. We receive the 24 churches of the former Convention of the South which are also members of the United Church. This means that our conference now has 130 churches. It means new strength and wider fellowship for us all. It means that we can now undertake greater things for Christ and His church.

As time goes on we shall see many values accruing to our total work as a result of this forward step. To some of us it has been a hard step to take, but none can doubt that it is a step we had to take to express our faith in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Lordship of Christ; that He died for all men — not just some of us. The church is His, "And ye are members, one of another."

This being the case, let us look at our needs:

A recent survey shows that we have 1,743 churches in our denomination with less than 100 members; that 45.3 per cent of our churches have less than 300 members. A large majority of the churches in our conference are among those with less than 100 members. What can we do about it?

1. Obviously we need a vigorous program of evangelism running throughout the year. One week during July or August will not do it. It hasn't been doing the job for a long time, as indicated by the fact that many of our churches show a declining membership or "the same as last year." Only 188 members were received on confession of faith by all our church in the Southeast Convention in 1964! Winning souls is a year-round mission. Let us look at the Lenten Season as a time for evangelism, and admit that it has no equal. These six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday are the greatest. So much wonderful material is available for every phase of evangelism during Lent. Then, as a special point of interest, let us look at Holy Week—that week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

The Bible gives us more information on what Jesus said and did during Holy Week than of any other period in His life and ministry. Beginning with the 11th chapter of St. Mark we find what Jesus did every day during that challenging, tragic and triumphant week — except Wednesday. Why not live with Jesus that week by having services each night?

Then look at the period—forty days—from Easter to Pentecost. The story is in the Book of Acts. What preaching opportunities! What a challenge to win souls! This makes three months, all in a row, when Heaven smiles upon us with an opportunity to really build up to a "Revival." There, too, is the Advent Season, the month lead-

ing up to Christmas. While the Christian Year offers other high moments for soul winning, these three are the summit! "But we have never done that," you may say. Then, in Heaven's name, let's start! It will prove itself.

2. We need Communication. We must solve the problem of lack of contact between the pastor and his people between preaching days and make more effective use of "Preaching Days" themselves. We can't solve the problems caused by the fact that so many pastors have to "make a living" during the week, with only Sunday left for the work of the church, but we can make plans which will involve the pastors and leaders of every church in action that will increase our happiness, give new strength, win new members and build our churches for the day when they will be strong enough, and brave enough, to keep the pastor near throughout the week. Seems a long way off? Perhaps it does, but we can bring it nearer every year if we lift our vision toward it and work for it.

3. We need to do something — a lot — about Christian Stewardship. Very few churches have a budget. Even fewer churches have a real Every-Member Canvass. If we don't know where we are going, and have no plans for arriving, how shall we know whether we will ever get there? Every church, large or small, should have goals. A budget is a goal. Every member of every church should be challenged to help reach that goal. An Every-Member Canvass gives that challenge. We have seen churches "revived" more by a good Every-Member Canvass than by a July "revival." Then think of the continuing joy when the church is able to do more than it ever imagined it could! If the church has no faith in its ability to do greater things, it stands to reason that the world it is sent to save will not be greatly challenged by it.

4. We need an informed church. Here, again, we need communication — between the people in our churches and the plans and programs of our conference and denomination. Yet, only about 700 copies of The Southeast News go into our churches each month. That is one reason we have unhappy people. They don't know what the conference or the denomination plans. They do not know that we have a world outreach and are investing many millions of dollars each year in the cause of Christ. If every pastor would put on a real campaign for subscriptions to The Southeast News and call upon the women of his church to help, we could soon have a great deal of information about our conference in the minds and hearts of our people. If we could get equal emphasis put upon the importance of subscribing to United Church Herald, we could generate new enthusiasm for the United Church of Christ and its mission to the world. We have a great church but it cannot go forward on what our people do not know about it.

Your denomination has no secrets. It belongs to its members. Let your denomination communicate with you.

Jesse H. Dollar, Interim Minister, Southeast Conference

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MEDICARE: THE MEDICAL DILEMMA

July 1st is turning out to be a nightmare to those who will be responsible for the operation of the Medicare program when it begins. The following picture is painted by the American Medical Association, the Surgeon General of the United States Health Services, the American Hospital Association, and specialists in various branches of medicine and medical care. Shortage in hospital facilities, doctors, nurses and all manner of technicians is already alarming. Figures presented in the study make up the following picture:

There are 5,712 general hospitals in the country which will bear the brunt of Medicare patient load. These hospitals have 720,810 beds and 150,000 more are needed now. There are, at present, about 19 million people in America 65 years old and older. About 1,000 reach their 65th birthday every day. There is an alarming shortage of doctors in general practice and in some specialized fields. There are 390,400 professional nurses in hospitals and related institutions. 525,000 will be needed by 1970, while only 35,000 are being graduated each year to take up the slack, account for retirement and other reasons for nurses quitting their jobs. There are needed now 75,000 more registered nurses and 25,000 practical nurses.

The American Nursing Home Association reports that there are 12,112 nursing homes licensed by State Health Departments. These homes have 490,000 beds. There are thousands of nursing homes that do not meet the stand-

Facts That Frighten Us

DID YOU KNOW: That 10 to 15 million people in India alone will starve to death in 1966 unless somebody feeds them?

DID YOU KNOW: That millions of Americans earn more in one week than nearly half the rest of the world earns in a whole year?

DID YOU KNOW: That the United States fights a war, somewhere in the world, every eleven years?

DID YOU KNOW: That although it has been 100 years since a war was fought on American soil, many people are still willing to fight about what caused it, and an equal number are willing to fight over the outcome of it?

DID YOU KNOW: That 49,000 people were killed on our highways in 1965?

DID YOU KNOW: That we killed as many of our people by accidents while we "celebrated" Christmas and New Year (1965-1966) as had

ards for approval, either by states or Medicare, so their beds will not be available to meet the expected crisis of the future. 300,000 more beds are needed.

ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS: There are only 8,500. Present need is for 3,500 more.

RADIOLOGISTS: There are 9,600 doctors specializing in X-Ray. Present need is for 20,000.

PATHOLOGISTS: There are 5,600 clinical pathologists; 2,000 more are needed.

PHARMACISTS: Only about half of our hospitals have pharmacists, either full time or part time. There were 6,000 in 1962. By 1975 we will need 10,000.

TECHNICIANS: Experts think that by 1970 we will need 172,000. Today there are only 38,000 experts in this field.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS: There are only 12,000 today, and it is estimated that by 1970 we will need 40,000, since this treatment will be needed by so many in Medicare.

The above picture will show why the medical profession and hospital people view the future with alarm. It is said that while some sections of the country are not too short of approved hospital facilities, other sections will be in for frightening shortages of hospital facilities for Medicare patients.

been killed in the war in Vietnam up until that time?

DON'T YOU THINK: That the Government should require automobile manufacturers to print the following sign (on the driver's side) of every car: "Warning! This thing will kill you?"

DID YOU KNOW: That there are 7,000,000 widows in the United States, partly as a result of wars their husbands fought?

DID YOU KNOW: That the U. S. Government requires manufacturers of cigarettes to print the following sign on every pack: "Caution: Cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health?"

DID YOU KNOW: That half the children born in the Middle East die before they reach their sixth birthday?

DID YOU KNOW: That many churches give nothing to the cause of Christian Missions, and think they can still survive?

DID YOU KNOW: That 74,060 members were received into the United Church of Christ on confession of faith in 1964 (which are the latest figures available) and that 127,438 members were received by our churches, and that only 188 were received on confession of faith by the churches in the Southeast Conference and a total of 454 for the year?

DON'T YOU THINK: That it is time we of our conference did something about evangelism?

Welcome, New Ministers!

The Southeast Conference is delighted to receive Certificates of Transfer from the Kentuckiana Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference for the Rev. Melvin R. Fenner, pastor of the First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tennessee; the Rev. John J. Roemer, pastor of the First United Church, Nashville, Tennessee; the Rev. Harold A. Schulz, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, Cullman, Alabama. They are former Evangelical and Reformed ministers and are ministers in good standing in the United Church of Christ. They are all men of complete training, having their B. D. degrees from leading institutions; and with their churches will add great strength to the fellowship and life of the new Southeast Conference.

First United Church Of Christ, Nashville, Tenn.

Since this church is to be our host for the annual meeting of the Southeast Conference, April 23-24, 1966, we should know something of its thrilling success.

This church was founded in 1892 by a group of Swiss people, who built a new church immediately — in 1893. Changing times and a shifting population caused the church to relocate on a beautiful new property in 1952. A large house, made of cut stone, was already on the property and was used for all church purposes until the present lovely sanctuary and educational facilities were erected in 1955. "It is fully air-conditioned and all the pews are cushioned with foam rubber." It is one of the most beautiful situations we have seen and, although "it cost a lot of money" it is free of debt, and all who attend our approaching conference will be glad that such fine people, and such beautiful church property are a part of our conference. The church is experiencing rapid growth.

The Reverend John J. Roemer is the pastor.

Valley District PF Rally

The Valley District Pilgrim Fellowship met on January 29th and 30th. The host church was the Congregational Christian Church in Langdale, Alabama.

Election of officers for the year 1966 was the main order of business. Officers elected are as follows:

President: Darrell Peebles

Vice-President: Becky Maddox

Secretary-Treasurer: Pacita Harry

A new office was established and is now filled by Joan Backstrom. The PF'ers also voted to give Bethel Church of West Point, Georgia, the money to buy one of the new pews for the church in the PF's name.

For the program the group discussed the histories of the various local churches and went into the various mergers that made up the United Church of Christ. For recreation the group skated in the Callaway Auditorium in LaGrange. After supper the group went to the homes of Langdale church members for the night.

On Sunday the PF'ers returned to the church for services, which were conducted by the Rev. Allen B. Hollis,

Elder Church Makes Progress

Elder Church voted to raise its Our Christian World Mission giving almost double!

New cabinets have been built in the basement kitchen and a double sink installed.

New shelves have been built for a church library. Some books have been placed there. The Jr. P. F. bought one of the books.

A piano was given to the church in memory of Miss Louise Duck, who passed away last fall. Miss Dora Dismukes, a long time friend of Miss Duck, was the donor of the piano, which was placed in the upstairs social room.

The Sr. P. F. is working on a project this year for Church World Service. They are making gowns and bandages which are to be sent to some hospital overseas — probably India. They are also creating interest by having bulletin board displays each Sunday in the vestibule of the church.

The Women's Fellowship is working with and visiting some of the elderly people in a nearby nursing home. Each member of the WF has "adopted" an elderly person in the home, and they try to brighten her days by visits, cards, gifts, etc.

The Rev. W. A. Blakenhorne is pastor.

Head Start Program

The HEAD START program for pre-school children is being held in St. John's United Church of Christ, Cullman, Alabama. Director of the school is Mr. Robert Dyer, member of St. John's Church. Instrumental in securing the program in Cullman is the youthful superintendent of city schools, Dr. Donald L. Horne, also a member of St. John's Church. Dr. Horne is presently a candidate for the office of State Superintendent of Education. Mrs. Horne is a niece of Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, Interim Minister of the Southeast Conference.

and the installation of the newly elected officers.

Lunch was served by the host church and the rally was over.

Joan Backstrom

The Southeast Conference In Nashville April 23-24

The program for the approaching sessions of our conference is ready. We have been fortunate in getting speakers of stature to represent the interest of our denomination. They will tell us many good things. But when they have brought the good news of what is in the mind and heart of our denomination, it will be up to those assembled to carry the message back to our local churches and seek to lift our vision and strengthen our faith for the task of carrying forward the plans.

The moderator of the General Synod of our church will be there to bring us greetings and news about the whole church. He is Dr. Hollis F. Price.

Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, president of Catawba, representing the Executive Council of the United Church, will tell us about what our church sees in its future in the world. Dr. Harold Skidmore, General Secretary of our pension boards, will be with us. You will not want to miss him. The Reverend Karlton Johnson, Regional Secretary of the Stewardship Council, will be with us to interpret Christian Stewardship. Miss Helen Huntington Smith, Executive Secretary of the Commission of Lay Life and Work, will be with us as speaker for the banquet on Saturday night. Mrs. F. C. Lester, Regional Secretary of Lay Life and Work for our area, will be with us.

In addition to the speakers there will be serious conference business to be transacted. The revised constitution of the conference will be before us for action. All the important committees of the conference will bring their reports with important resolutions and recommendations for our consideration. Don't you want to go?

A letter carrying the official call for the meeting, along with other important information, has been sent to every pastor and church. Please follow the instructions about registrations, reservations and other important matters. If you are to arrive by plane or train, be sure to let the host church know the time of arrival.

News Of The Lightbournes

It is good to be communicating with the people of the Southeast Conference again through the pages of The Southeast News. First, I want to let you know I share in your delight that our friend of many years, Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, is serving as interim superintendent until my successor is selected. And second, I want to assure you of my awareness of how much it helps to have Mrs. McCord carrying on in the office.

There is one thing for certain about our experiences in North Carolina. We have had enough snow to last for several years. The weather waited for our arrival and then proceeded to send cold waves and snow in record-breaking fashion.

We were able to find a lovely and comfortable house in a convenient residential area of Burlington. Thus, it was not necessary for us to move into an apartment. Our pets made the change in fine fashion — our cat, guinea pigs, and duck. (Our dog, "Spot", died a week before we moved. Just last week a fellow minister gave us "Tip", a nine-week-old mostly Beagle puppy.)

Carolyn has been busy at the sewing machine that was given her as a farewell present. All of the windows now have curtains or drapes and some of us have some new clothes. With part of the money that was given us by the people and churches of the convention a new combination stereo, radio, and record player was purchased. It delights us all.

Although our house is less than three miles from Elon College, our son, Jimmy, continues to live on campus. Andy and Leslie Hope are students at Turrentine Junior High School, Burlington. We have joined the Edgewood Church of Christ, Burlington, which is not far from where we live. It is a relatively new congregation and is truly a United Church. Rev. Mark Andes is our pastor.

The offices of the Southern Conference are still at Elon College, but will be moved to Burlington as soon as possible. Getting the new conference started has been exciting work. There are about 400 churches in the conference with almost 70,000 members. Fortunately, we have a staff of six ministers to carry out the work. I feel a bit strange with so many people

Faithful Minister Passes At Age 92

Funeral services for the Rev. Alva Lyle DeJarnette, retired minister of the Soddy Congregational Church, were held on March 2, 1966, by the Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Rev. Mr. DeJarnette died Monday night, February 28th, at the Up-lands Cumberland Mountain Sanatorium in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, where he had lived since his Soddy home burned in December, 1965.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. E. W. Donally of Athens, Greece, and a son, Leland DeJarnette of Los Angeles, California.

Mr. DeJarnette came to Soddy from New York in 1928, accompanied by his wife, the late Mrs. Harriett Lyons DeJarnette. He was a member of the North Hamilton County Ministerial Association, the Soddy Chamber of Commerce, the Hamilton County Farm Bureau, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Do We Know The Reason For Most Failures?

Yes, we do. People fail mainly because they are such difficult problems to themselves that they lack the time, energy and attention to succeed. They spend themselves trying to keep from getting their feelings hurt, trying to prove to themselves that it was somebody else's fault that they failed, licking their emotional wounds and feeling sorry for themselves. The first essential for success is, in the words of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, to get yourself off your hands. Then, and only then, will you be in a position to succeed as you should.

with whom to share the various responsibilities.

We will always keep the people of the Southeast in our hearts and remember the years there with joy. Our address is:

2903 Amherst Avenue
Burlington, North Carolina 27217

We hope that you will write to us and come see us.

James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Take Time For Ten Things

1. Take time to work
It's the price of success
2. Take time to think
It is the source of power
3. Take time to play
It is the secret of youth
4. Take time to read
It is the foundation of knowledge
5. Take time to worship
It is the highway of reverence and washes the dust of earth from our eyes
6. Take time to help your friends
It is the source of happiness
7. Take time to love
It is the sacrament of life
8. Take time to dream
It hitches the soul to the stars
9. Take time to laugh
It is the singing that helps lift life's loads
10. Take time to plan
It is the secret of being able to have time for the first nine things

What They Live Children Learn

- If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.
- If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and
and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world

THE CHRISTIAN DRIVER'S PRAYER

Help me, O God, as I drive, to love my neighbor as myself, that I may do nothing to hurt or endanger any of Your children. Give my eyes clear vision and skill to my hands and feet. Make me tranquil in mind and relaxed in body. Deliver me from the spirit of rivalry and from resentment at the actions of others, and bring me safely to my journey's end. AMEN!

Rev. Harold Schulz Receives Honor Medal Award

Rev. Harold A. Schulz, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, Cullman, Alabama, received the George Washington Medal Award for an essay, "I Get a Bargain in America," in the Freedoms Foundation Competition. The Southeast News is proud to publish this prize-winning essay below:

"I GET A BARGAIN IN AMERICA"

As I walked out of our new courthouse one day after having paid my taxes and purchased my new license for my car, an acquaintance facetiously asked, "Well, did you get a bargain?" After my appreciation for his humor subsided I contemplated the jocose remark and half way said to myself, "Why, yes, I did get a bargain." There was much truth in what he said. For where else could I attain it but in America? I paid my taxes and received my car tags. Right there were the runways to two of my freedoms in the American way of life!

First, as an American citizen, I am privileged to pay taxes in return for the "right to the service of government as a protector and referee." This is to say that life, my life in America, in its broad sense is marked with safety. I have no need to fear any "secret police" coming to my home and taking me prisoner. When I awaken in the morning and hear footsteps on my front porch, I know it is the milkman coming with the bottles of milk for the day and not an "agent" of the government stalking at my door to take my rights away from me."

It is with utmost honesty that I, a citizen, pay my taxes, for in so doing, I am an American and a believer in her way of government and life, am protecting these rights and safeguarding the freedom I love. My taxes, whether federal, state or local, are passports to protection in the land of the free. Whatever my taxes may be I cannot consider them as an expense or a burden, but rather a privilege for the benefits and blessings derived from their use.

Secondly, I like to think that my car tags symbolize the larger interpretation of my American right to move about freely wherever and whenever I wish, whether at home or abroad. Imagine going through rolls of red tape to take a trip only several hun-

Why The Shortage Of Ministers?

One of the alarming facts, at this critical time in the life of the church and the world, is that there simply are not enough pastors or ministers to fill the pulpits; this is true, more or less, in all denominations. It takes seven years, above high school, for a minister to receive full scholastic training in most denominations. It is true of ours in most sections of the country. It is not a requirement of our conference at this time, but the standards should be raised as fast as it is possible for us to meet the challenge.

While the United Church of Christ has more men in seminaries across the country than ever before, the demands still far exceed the number of men graduating from seminary each year. Not only that, but it is almost impossible for a minister to "retire" these days. There is a great demand for older men to do interim pastorates while a church "looks" for a pastor. Why the shortage?

There are several reasons why pastors are in short supply. We think the most important reason is that parents

dred miles away, and after arriving, I am made to feel that I am a foreigner in my own homeland. In deed, this is a privilege for which I am grateful.

In a true sense of the word I received a bargain as I always have. Hence my stewardship to my country, my responsibility to this nation, is never too great for the privileges and opportunities received. I consider this stewardship to my country as a religious sort of duty for the Bible in truth and sincerity commends us for rendering our due obligations to our country, which is a "nation under God."

I feel duty bound to thank God each day for my citizenship as an American. I must thank God daily that the founding fathers of this great land saw the necessity as well as the spiritual beauty of entering by way of writing and practice those fundamental beliefs of the Almighty into the Constitution.

I will always get a bargain in America while I, along with millions of others, return my due obligations to my country. The bargain I get is in the pursuit of happiness and in life's fulfillment.

seem not to lay upon the hearts of their boys the importance of "being a minister." Too often the parents encourage their sons and daughters to "do well", by which is meant, "make all the money you can!" Money is the mark of success as the world measures success, but one does not enter the ministry to make money if he knows the value of God's call to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. One goes into the ministry to give, not to get! His call is to make lives, not money, to be an instrument of redemption through the preaching of the gospel.

Then, something seems to be lacking in what the church itself is doing for its youth. There are rural churches in our conference that have given five and six of their young men to the ministry in other generations. But there is nobody in training for the ministry from these churches today. Many churches wear out ministers, but never produce any. Has the church to which you belong produced as many ministers as it has used up? Has the church of which you are pastor produced a minister since you became its pastor?

We may attempt to excuse ourselves by saying that industry offers so much more money than the ministry, our young people are not interested in making the sacrifices necessary to accept God's call. If He calls, they will answer. They always have. Let's be sure we do not drown out God's call with our ambitions for their "success" as the world measures it.

How To Succeed In Looking For A Church By Trying

1. Ask the minister how the church serves others — at home and overseas.
2. Ask him what you can do to help in these programs.
3. Ask how the Sunday School helps your children know and live the Christian faith.
4. Visit a Sunday morning worship service.
5. Drop in at the coffee hour afterward and get acquainted.

The Bible In Heart And Hand

If Protestant Christianity is to advance, it must be with the Bible in her hands and the Christ of the Bible in her heart.

Protestant Christianity appeals to mankind because it breathes the pure air of truth. It does not keep a double set of books which cancels out the Word of God, as in the case of the Jewish Talmud and the Roman traditions and dogma. It proclaims the freedom of the spirit in Jesus Christ, which can be experienced by all men as the truth of God, without the benefit of man-made interpretations or dogmas.

If our concept of Bible faith is the truth, then we should have substantial evidence of its saving grace and superiority in the places where it has been tested. Democracy is the evolutionary result of the Bible. Free spirits develop free minds and free investigation, which in turn beget free politics and free people.

The kingdom of God is our ultimate goal, and the way to achieve it is to lift up the Christ of the Bible by making the Holy Scriptures increasingly available to all mankind who are still in the shadows of ignorance. Were not the founders of our church—Zwingli, Luther, and Calvin—converted from Roman Catholicism by reading the truth in the Word of God? The pen is mightier than the sword, and the translators sent the Word of God into all of Europe and beyond, where its saving grace was verified in converted lives. Today, the Scriptures are the most potent weapon of the pastor, missionary, and individual Christian; yes, even of the statesman and world

politician.

What the Bible has done for Christianity, for the Reformers, the Pilgrims, the founders and great men of our churches and nations, it can do for you and for all generations to come.

As Christians who read and believe the Word of God, we are certain that the peace and love of his kingdom depend upon the eager spreading and living of his truth.

Principal distributing agency is the American Bible Society, which has provided portions in over a thousand tongues. Its devoted agents work in every section of the globe, and it is constantly besieged by truth- and hope-seeking brethren reaching out for the Holy Word.

The second Sunday in December is Universal Bible Sunday, which every Christian should observe with heartfelt gratitude by making a contribution to the work of giving the living Word to every creature. This is one of the few projects in which Protestant Christians are united, for all are grateful for the Word, which has brought the truth of God and the blessing of Christ.

Many congregations receive a special offering on this Sunday — or at some other convenient time — in support of the work of the American Bible Society. This gift should be sent through the treasurer of the church.

— Clarence H. Moatz